

## IN THE CLAIMS

Regarding the Examiner's objection to the use of the term "mechanical power from said motor" being communicated to the means for cutting distal ends being incorrect, the Examiner may have misread the claim.

The motor is adapted for communication with an electrical power source and runs on electrical power. But the motor, as all motors do, provides mechanical power to whatever it powers, which in this case is the means for cutting off portions of said distal ends of said hair strands. Consequently the use of the term mechanical power from said motor seems correct.

Regarding the Examiner's notation that claim 11 should be changed from "original" to currently amended, such is correct. However, since the claims now have to be restated in this office action, "currently amended" has been substituted by "previously presented" which would now be the correct notation as in this office action claim 11 is not being amended.

Please amend the claims as noted below to address the Examiner's concerns as to claims 1-22 and 26-31. Please add claim 33.

1. (Previously presented) A hair trimming apparatus for trimming the distal ends of hair drawn therethrough, comprising:

- a body assembly having a handle end and having a head end;
- a motor mounted in said body assembly adapted for communication with an electric power source;
- a cutting head assembly positioned upon said head end of said body assembly, said cutting head assembly having a face with a retainer cavity formed therein, a rear wall, a sidewall, and an interior cavity defined by the area between said face and said rear wall;
- a slot in said retainer cavity communicating between said face and said interior cavity;
- an elongated hair retainer mounted to said body assembly at a first end, said hair retainer dimensioned for cooperative engagement in said retainer cavity;
- said elongated hair retainer having an operating position cooperatively engaged in said retainer cavity and having a raised position, substantially disengaged from said retainer cavity;
- means to move said elongated hair retainer between said raised position and said operating position;
- a serpentine path formed between said retainer cavity and said hair retainer in said operating position, said

serpentine path for drawing hair strands through said cutting head assembly;

said slot allowing said distal ends of said hair strands drawn through said serpentine path to momentarily communicate into said interior cavity; and

means for cutting off portions of said distal ends of said hair strands;

means to communicate mechanical power from said motor to said means for cutting off portions of said distal ends of said hair strands.

2. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 1 additionally comprising:

said cutting head assembly removably mountable to said head end; and

means for cooperative engagement of said cutting head assembly to said head end.

3. (original) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 1 additionally comprising:

an aperture formed in said sidewall;

a tray, said tray engageable into said interior cavity through said aperture to a mounted position;

means to substantially seal said aperture when said tray is in said mounted position; and

said tray having at least one collection cavity positioned to catch said portions cut from the distal ends of said hairs, whereby said portions cut from said distal ends of said hairs are collected in said collection cavity and thereafter may be disposed of by moving said tray from its mounted position and inverting it.

4.(original) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 2 additionally comprising:

an aperture formed in said sidewall;

a tray, said tray engageable into said interior cavity through said aperture to a mounted position;

means to substantially seal said aperture when said tray is in said mounted position; and

said tray having at least one collection cavity positioned to catch said portions cut from the distal ends of said hairs, whereby said portions cut from said distal ends of said hairs are collected in said collection cavity and thereafter may be disposed of by moving said tray from its mounted position and inverting it.

5. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 1 additionally comprising:

a rear aperture formed in said rear wall, said rear aperture providing communication to said interior cavity; and  
openable means for sealing said rear aperture.

6. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 2 additionally comprising:

a rear aperture formed in said rear wall, said rear aperture providing communication to said interior cavity; and  
openable means for sealing said rear aperture.

7. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 3 additionally comprising:

a rear aperture formed in said rear wall, said rear aperture providing communication to said interior cavity; and  
openable means for sealing said rear aperture.

8. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 4 additionally comprising:

a rear aperture formed in said rear wall, said rear aperture providing communication to said interior cavity; and  
openable means for sealing said rear aperture.

9. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 2 additionally comprising:

a plurality of cutter blade assemblies each either removably or permanently mountable in said interior cavity;

each of said plurality of cutter blade assemblies configured to cut a defined length of said distal ends of said hair strands whereby a user may adjust the length of said distal ends removed from said hair strands by changing to another cutter blade assembly from said plurality of cutter blade assemblies.

10. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 4 additionally comprising:

a plurality of cutter blade assemblies each either removably or permanently mountable in said interior cavity;

each of said plurality of cutter blade assemblies configured to cut a defined length of said distal ends of said hair strands whereby a user may adjust the length of said distal ends removed from said hair strands by changing to another cutter blade assembly from said plurality of cutter blade assemblies.

11. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 6 additionally comprising:

a plurality of cutter blade assemblies each either removably or permanently mountable in said interior cavity;

each of said plurality of cutter blade assemblies

configured to cut a defined length of said distal ends of said hair strands whereby a user may adjust the length of said distal ends removed from said hair strands by changing to another cutter blade assembly from said plurality of cutter blade assemblies.

12. (original) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 5 additionally comprising:

said rear aperture engageable with one of a plurality of components from a group of engageable components consisting of a hair dryer and a vacuum.

13.(original) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 6 additionally comprising:

said rear aperture engageable with one of a plurality of components from a group of engageable components consisting of a hair dryer and a vacuum.

14.(original) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 7 additionally comprising:

said rear aperture engageable with one of a plurality of components from a group of engageable components consisting of a hair dryer and a vacuum.

15. (original) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 8 additionally comprising:

said rear aperture engageable with one of a plurality of components from a group of engageable components consisting of a hair dryer and a vacuum.

16. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 1 additionally comprising:

said retainer cavity communicating between said face and said interior cavity being substantially arched shaped and extending from a point substantially adjacent to a first side edge of said face to a second point substantially adjacent to a second side edge of said face opposite said first side edge;

said elongated hair retainer also having arched shape dimensioned for cooperative engagement in said retainer cavity; and

said slot positioned substantially equidistant between said first point and said second point.

17. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 2 additionally comprising:

said retainer cavity communicating between said face and said interior cavity being substantially arched shaped and extending from a point substantially adjacent to a



first side edge of said face to a second point substantially adjacent to a second side edge of said face opposite said first side edge;  
said elongated hair retainer also having arched shape dimensioned for cooperative engagement in said retainer cavity; and  
said slot positioned substantially equidistant between said first point and said second point.

18. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 3 additionally comprising:

said retainer cavity communicating between said face and said interior cavity being substantially arched shaped and extending from a point substantially adjacent to a first side edge of said face to a second point substantially adjacent to a second side edge of said face opposite said first side edge;  
said elongated hair retainer also having arched shape dimensioned for cooperative engagement in said retainer cavity; and  
said slot positioned substantially equidistant between said first point and said second point.

19. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 4 additionally comprising:

said retainer cavity communicating between said face and said interior cavity being substantially arched shaped and extending from a point substantially adjacent to a first side edge of said face to a second point substantially adjacent to a second side edge of said face opposite said first side edge;

said elongated hair retainer also having arched shape dimensioned for cooperative engagement in said retainer cavity; and

said slot positioned substantially equidistant between said first point and said second point.

20. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 5 additionally comprising:

said retainer cavity communicating between said face and said interior cavity being substantially arched shaped and extending from a point substantially adjacent to a first side edge of said face to a second point substantially adjacent to a second side edge of said face opposite said first side edge;

said elongated hair retainer also having arched shape dimensioned for cooperative engagement in said retainer cavity; and

said slot positioned substantially equidistant between said first point and said second point.

21. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 6 additionally comprising:

said retainer cavity communicating between said face and said interior cavity being substantially arched shaped and extending from a point substantially adjacent to a first side edge of said face to a second point substantially adjacent to a second side edge of said face opposite said first side edge;

said elongated hair retainer also having arched shape dimensioned for cooperative engagement in said retainer cavity; and

said slot positioned substantially equidistant between said first point and said second point.

22. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 7 additionally comprising:

said retainer cavity communicating between said face and said interior cavity being substantially arched shaped and extending from a point substantially adjacent to a first side edge of said face to a second point substantially adjacent to a second side edge of said face opposite said first side edge;

said elongated hair retainer also having arched shape  
dimensioned for cooperative engagement in said retainer  
cavity; and  
said slot positioned substantially equidistant between said  
first point and said second point.

23. (Previously presented) A hair trimming apparatus for trimming  
the distal ends of hair drawn therethrough, comprising:

a body assembly having a handle end and having a head end;  
a motor mounted in said body assembly adapted for  
communication with an electric power source;  
a cutting head assembly positioned upon said head end of  
said body assembly, said cutting head assembly having  
a face having a plurality of ~~said~~ retainer cavities formed  
therein, each of said plurality of said retainer  
cavities having a slot therein communicating between  
said face and ~~said~~ an interior cavity;  
an elongated hair retainer having a plurality of elongated  
projections, each of said projections dimensioned for  
cooperative engagement in said retainer cavities;  
said elongated hair retainer having an operating position  
with said projections cooperatively engaged in said  
retainer cavities and having a raised position, with  
said projections substantially disengaged from said  
retainer cavities;

a serpentine path formed between each of said plurality of  
retainer cavities and said elongated projections; and  
each slot in said plurality of retainer cavities allowing  
said distal ends of said hair drawn through said  
serpentine path to momentarily communicate into said  
interior cavity, whereby portions of said distal ends  
of said hair communicate into said interior cavity a  
plurality of times substantially equal to the number of  
said plurality of retainer cavities.

24. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined  
in claim 23 additionally comprising:

said cutting head assembly being removably mountable to said  
head end; and

means for cooperative engagement of said cutting head  
assembly to said head end.

25. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined  
in claim 23 additionally comprising:

an aperture formed in a sidewall of said body assembly;  
a tray, said tray engageable into said interior cavity  
through said aperture to a mounted position;

means to substantially seal said aperture when said tray is  
in said mounted position; and

said tray having at least one collection cavity positioned

to catch said portions cut from the distal ends of said hair, whereby said portions cut from said distal ends of said hair are collected in said collection cavity and thereafter may be disposed of by moving said tray from its mounted position and inverting it.

26. (Currently amended) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 24 additionally comprising:

an aperture formed in a sidewall of said body assembly;

a tray, said tray engageable into said interior cavity through said aperture to a mounted position;

means to substantially seal said aperture when said tray is in said mounted position; and

said tray having at least one collection cavity positioned to catch said portions cut from the distal ends of said hair, whereby said portions cut from said distal ends of said ~~hairs~~ hair are collected in said collection cavity and thereafter may be disposed of by moving said tray from its mounted position and inverting it.

27. (Currently Amended) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 23 additionally comprising:

a rear aperture formed in a rearwall of said body assembly, said rear aperture providing communication to ~~an~~ said interior cavity; and

openable means for sealing said rear aperture.

28. (Currently Amended) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 24 additionally comprising:

a rear aperture formed in a rearwall of said body assembly, said rear aperture providing communication to ~~an~~ said interior cavity; and

openable means for sealing said rear aperture.

29. (Currently Amended) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 25 additionally comprising:

a rear aperture formed in a rearwall of said body assembly, said rear aperture providing communication to ~~an~~ said interior cavity; and

openable means for sealing said rear aperture.

30. (Previously Presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 26 additionally comprising:

a rear aperture formed in a rearwall of said body assembly, said rear aperture providing communication to said interior cavity; and

openable means for sealing said rear aperture.

31. (Previously Presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 1 additionally comprising:

a plurality of splines located on one or a combination of said hair retainer and said face;

gaps formed between said splines; and

said gaps dividing said serpentine path into a plurality of individual serpentine pathways for guiding hair strands through said retainer cavity and said hair retainer.

32. (Previously presented) The hair trimming apparatus as defined in claim 23 additionally comprising:

a plurality of splines located on one or a combination of said hair retainer and said face;

gaps formed between said splines; and

said gaps dividing said serpentine path into a plurality of individual serpentine pathways for guiding hair strands through said plurality of retainer cavities and said hair retainer.

33. (New) A hair trimming apparatus for trimming the distal ends of hair drawn therethrough, comprising:

a body assembly having a handle end and having a head end;

a cutting head assembly positioned upon said head end of

said body assembly, said cutting head assembly having a face with a retainer cavity formed therein, a rear wall, a sidewall, and an interior cavity defined by the area between said face and said rear wall;



a slot in said retainer cavity communicating between said face and said interior cavity;

an elongated hair retainer mounted to said body assembly at a first end, said hair retainer dimensioned for cooperative engagement in said retainer cavity;

said elongated hair retainer having an operating position cooperatively engaged in said retainer cavity and having a raised position, substantially disengaged from said retainer cavity;

means to move said elongated hair retainer between said raised position and said operating position;

a serpentine path formed between said retainer cavity and said hair retainer in said operating position, said serpentine path for drawing hair strands through said cutting head assembly;

said slot allowing said distal ends of said hair strands drawn through said serpentine path to momentarily communicate into said interior cavity; and

means for cutting off portions of said distal ends of said hair strands which communicate into said interior cavity.